

REMARKS

1. Claims 1 and 34 have been amended. Applicants note inadvertent typographical errors in inputting the weight percent range of steel alloy since it was intended to recite the specific concentration limitations found in claim 17 of the application as originally filed. Applicants respectfully submit this amendment to Claim 1 to correct the inadvertent misstatement of the concentration range and now correctly recite the disclosed language of "about 88.75 to about 92.75 percent by weight " instead of the about 82.75 to about 93.75 included in the original preliminary amendment. The inadvertent inclusion in Claim 34 of boron in the list of metallic, intermetallic or ceramic materials, for which support is found on page 14, at lines 4-7, has been deleted so that only the correct boron carbide material remains with the other materials. It is submitted that no new matter is presented by these minor amendments to the claims.

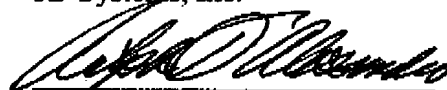
2. The specification has also been amended on page 12, beginning at line 21 to recite that the powder blend used in the process can comprise about 88.75 to about 92.75 weight percent mild steel alloy based on support found in original claim 17.

3. In summary claims 1-15, 32, 34 and 35 remain in the application. Independent claim 1 and dependent claim 34 have been amended. Page 12 of the specification, beginning at line 21 has been amended.

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Pursuant to currently recommended Patent Office practice, the Examiner is expressly authorized to call the Applicant's attorney collect at Valencia, California, if in the Examiner's judgment disposition of this application could be expedited or if the application is considered not ready for examination or final disposition by other than allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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